

CITY CHIMES.

The Young Men's Christian Association have added an attraction to their Sunday afternoon meetings in the form of an orchestra, which consists of violin, clarinet, cornet, euphonium and piano. The improvement in the musical service is very marked, and the result of this new departure will certainly be favorable. The Association seems to be fully alive to its possibilities and responsibilities, and is doing much good among the youth of the city. The gymnasium is proving very successful and the Association is to be congratulated on the flourishing state of its affairs.

We are glad to know that the rumor which was circulated last week to the effect that the Exhibition Skating Rink was not to be opened this winter, was not founded on fact. Manager Clarke states that the rink will be opened as usual on Christmas Day, and we doubt not will be well patronized. Halifaxians may well appreciate their excellent skating rink, as it contributes largely to the pleasure of our season of ice and snow and forms a merry meeting place for lovers of invigorating sport. The skaters are fortunate in having such fine music as that furnished by our military bands, which adds not a little to the enjoyment of indoor skating and renders the Exhibition Rink one of the chief attractions of the winter season.

The Lyceum is still holding its own among the numberless attractions that are open to the pleasure loving public. Professor Semon has evidently discovered the secret of retaining as well as gaining popularity, and his entertainments continue to draw far larger crowds than the old theatre on Starr St. is capable of accommodating. This week the chief attraction of this wonderful show has been the "Jockey Minstrels and Gaiety Burlesque Company," and Zera's patrons have shown their appreciation of the entertainment provided. On Monday evening the programme is to be changed and another "great show" under the direction of Ed. Kelly, the comedian, will be opened, which will no doubt prove quite as interesting and attractive as those that have gone before. Professor Semon is under heavy expenses in thus catering to the tastes of the public, but his efforts have been well rewarded in our city and all classes of the people, even representatives from the select four hundred, have flocked to see the novel entertainments which have been offered.

The date of the first concert of the Church of England Institute course has been changed from the 17th to the 22nd, and on Tuesday evening next the Hall of the Institute should be well filled, as the programme for this entertainment is more than usually attractive, and the committee in charge is putting forth every effort to render this first concert a success.

The Organ Recital at the Church of the Redeemer which was to have taken place this evening has been postponed on account of the illness of Mr. W. F. Compton, organist of the church.

An odd combination company has "come to town" this week. The Kickapoo Indians, who have been giving concerts in Orpheus Hall and selling their wonderful medicines to their many patrons. This band of natives of the far west attracted much attention in their parade through town and with their novel costumes and painted faces presented indeed a startling appearance. Their concerts have been especially attractive to the small boys who for the small sum of ten cents get a good deal of fun out of this quaint exhibition.

Another of those happy events which so frequently occur wherever young men and women are found, took place at St. Luke's cathedral on Monday when Miss Katie M. M. Fishwick, second daughter of the late F. W. Fishwick, was united in the bands of wedlock to Mr. Thomas Whitehead, of Montreal, bookkeeper at the Halifax Cotton Factory. The bride was attired in a travelling dress, and was attended by her sister Miss Jessie Fishwick, and Miss Laura Esson, of St. John; the groom's best man being Mr. I. H. Crowell. After the ceremony which was performed by Rev. W. King, Mr. and Mrs. Whitehead left for a wedding tour extending to Montreal.

We have had our first instalment of "the beautiful," but alas! its beauty was shortlived, and the rain which followed the fall of snow on Tuesday night rendered the condition of our streets anything but pleasant. Our weather so far this winter has been simply delightful and we have had very few unpleasant days. A genuine old fashioned Christmas would quite take us by surprise, though it is well to be prepared for the unexpected, and good sleighing and frosty air certainly adds zest to the pleasures of the merry season. The shops are wearing a very attractive appearance and the business streets of the city are thronged with busy shoppers, young and old, rich and poor, each interested and happy in selecting gifts for friends and relatives; and so, bringing its kindly feelings and happy gatherings, the best holiday of the year has come once more.

Bazzars and fancy sales are still with us in abundance, and it is really wonderful the success with which each meets. On Monday afternoon and evening the Children's Mission Band in connection with Fort Massey Church held a very successful sale and concert at the residence of their Pastor, Dr. Burns; and on Tuesday the ladies of St. Andrew's Church had a sale of aprons, etc., with a goodly display of fancy work in the basement of their church, and are to be congratulated on the results of their efforts. The Sisters of Charity also have reason to feel gratified with the reward of their labors to make the fancy sale held by them in St. Patrick's Hall on Wednes-

day and Thursday a successful venture. These ladies had some fine work on exhibition, nearly all of which was satisfactorily disposed of. This afternoon St. Matthew's Mission Band is offering fancy and useful articles for sale, and this evening propose having a concert, in which many leading amateurs of the city have consented to take part. These, with others, make up a long list of competitors for the patronage of the public, and have furnished much diversion to the numerous patrons, as well as those promoting the worthy objects to which the proceeds have been devoted.

The annual meeting of the Halifax School for the Blind, held in the fine hall of the new building on Monday evening, was largely attended. The Assembly Hall was crowded with interested friends of the blind, and a very pleasant evening was enjoyed by all present. The addresses by Mr. W. C. Silver, President of the Board of Managers, Archbishop O'Brien, Rev. J. G. Bond, Rev. E. D. Adams, Rev. Dr. Saunders, and Prov. Sec. Fielding, were very interesting. The reports of the Board of Managers and of the Superintendent were very satisfactory and encouraging, and gave many among the audience new ideas as to the possibilities of this educational institution. The choir and band of the School rendered a fine programme of music during the evening. This completes the twenty-first year of this Institution's existence, and there is every indication of rapid progress and extended usefulness in the future. A greatly increased interest in the training of the blind is noticeable every year as the School is better known, and there is always a full house when any entertainment is given at the Institution.

The minstrel troupe which appeared at the Academy last evening and will perform to-night and to-morrow afternoon and evening will probably prove a great attraction for those who enjoy a good performance of this kind. This Company, "Henry's Minstrels," has a good reputation established and furnishes an amusing entertainment. They number about thirty persons and travel in their own private car. Our city seems to be well supplied this week with minstrel shows and concert companies, but all have been well patronized and apparently much appreciated.

The Recital to be given this evening in Orpheus Hall by Miss Kathleen Magee has been eagerly looked forward to and will doubtless be well attended. Miss Magee is an elocutionist of much talent and has many admirers in Halifax, who will be glad to avail themselves of this opportunity of again spending an evening listening to her very agreeable rendition of various selections. Miss Magee will be assisted by Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. Hagarty, Mrs. Percy Lear, Mrs. Kligenfeld, Herr Kligenfeld, Mr. Boak, Prof. Currie, and Mr. Huestis, all of whom are favorably known in musical circles. The programme which has been prepared promises a genuine treat to all who attend.

The oriental rugs on exhibition during the latter part of last week in Mason Hall attracted the attention of the fashionables of Halifax. Society, with a capital S, please, was walking over the rugs and carpets, and fingering the embroideries with a view to bargains on Monday and Tuesday, when they were auctioned by Clark. The catalogue informs us that Mr. O'Brien has been controlling this branch of art in Canada for some years, and now intends including Halifax among the cities in which annual sales will be held. The mysteries of different makes of carpets and rugs are explained in the catalogue, but one really needs to look long and often at some of those eastern rugs to thoroughly comprehend their beauty. The pile of "antiques" attracted the most attention. Some of these rugs are supposed to be very old—about two centuries—and time but adds to their value. "Worth their weight in gold," is what Mr. O'Brien says, so it will be seen they are not intended for poor people. The Bulgarian embroideries were very handsome and sold remarkably cheap. Longing eyes were cast on many of the more attractive carpets, all in one piece and so thick and soft, but they were too valuable for people of moderate means to invest in. We wish that our old carpets were as valuable as the "antiques," woven by the dainty figures of dark-eyed Eastern ladies. We would then hold an auction of our own and make a snug little sum on them. If antiquity increases value, we have some rugs worth much more than we gave for them. It is, however, quite a privilege to have an opportunity of seeing, and purchasing if you want to, these rugs. They undoubtedly have much good wear in them, and at the prices they sold for in this city will prove economical.

A party of ladies and gentlemen of Dartmouth visited Mount Hope Insane Asylum on Thursday evening of last week and gave a very pleasant entertainment for the benefit of the patients of the Institution. Rev. Mr. Stewart acted as Chairman, and the party successfully carried out a programme of music and recitations, every number of which was loudly applauded by the audience. After the entertainment was over Mrs. Dixon treated the guests to cake and coffee, and the executive thanked them for their kindness in remembering the afflicted people for whom they had prepared such a pleasant evening.

The Fortnightly Club of Dartmouth met at Mrs. S. R. Sircom's on Tuesday evening, when the enjoyable pastime for which it exists was participated in by a large number of people. The harpers furnish music for the Club until they leave for the last boat for Halifax at half-past eleven. The next meeting will be held at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. T. Cutler on Tuesday the 29th.

The south window of the N. S. Furnishing Company, corner of Barrington and Prince Streets, is very attractively trimmed for Christmas with a winter scene. There are those, however, who very much preferred to look at the handsome furniture recently displayed.